AMEND AN ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR SUNDRY CIVIL EXPENSES OF THE GOVERNMENT," ETC.

FEBRUARY 26, 1925.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. Lanham, from the Committee on Patents, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 11403]

The Committee on Patents, to whom was referred H. R. 11403, report that they have had the same under consideration and recom-

mend that the bill do pass.

The Committee on Patents held hearings on the provisions of this measure, and it developed in the testimony that the passage of this bill would likely result in the saving to the Government of a very considerable sum of money. The testimony shows that many useful inventions have been made by employees in various branches of the Government service which have not been protected by patents. Subsequent inventions by people outside of the Government service upon which patents have been procured have led to many suits for infringement, which have been costly to the Government. The necessity for legislation in this regard is urged in the following recent letter from the Secretary of War:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, D. C., February 16, 1925.

Hon. FLORIAN LAMPERT,

Chairman Committee on Patents, House of Representatives.

My Dear Mr. Lampert: I understand that you have before your committee for consideration H. R. 11403, relating to the amendment of the act of March 3, 1883.

The importance of this legislation to the United States is such as to warrant me in urging you to give it consideration at this session of Congress. The statement contained in the letter of the Chief of Ordnance of February 11, 1925, which is transmitted herewith for your information, is only an example of the situation in this department.

I am advised by the Judge Advocate General that prior to submitting the question treated in H. R. 11403 this department obtained the concurrence of all the interested departments and bureaus of the Government. The suits now pending in the Court of Claims against the United States run into hundreds of millions of dollars, and, as above stated, many of them grow out of inventions that were undoubtedly made in the service, unpatented by service personnel because of lack of proper legal machinery to protect the interests of the United States.

Sincerely yours,